30th July 1962]

Burning of Hindi edition of the Gazette

* 111 S.N. *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the burning of Hindi edition of the Gazette of the Union Government by a political party; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The demonstration did not evoke any public response and Government considered it best to ignore it.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it not a fact, Sir, that under the existing law, it is an offence for a private party to print the Government Gazette, and, if so what action did the Government take in the matter against the leader of the party for having printed a Hindi version of the Gazette for the purpose of burning it?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, there is also a principle of law that trivial things are not punished. Government think that it is a very trivial matter.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Sir, will this not give rise to other people committing the same offence if the Government were to ignore such offences, and is it not also a fact, Sir, that this person indulged in this act for the sake of creating a political stunt?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, if this becomes a contagion and more people engage themselves in such activities, Government will take serious notice of it.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Can they quote this as a precedent?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, the hon. Member should know that merely because some concession was shown or notice was not taken of a small incident, it cannot be pleaded as an excuse for committing the offence of a serious kind.

Motor vehicles tax

* 112 *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount of share given to each municipality annually from the proceeds of the motor vehicles tax; and

(*b*) when the percentage was fixed?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Chief Minister) : (*a*) & (*b*) It is not a question of share but of compensation to the municipalities which were levying tolls or fees on licences granted to motor vehicles. A sum equivalent to the